



OREGON HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

February 20, 2026

Timothy G. Sekerak
Chief Clerk of the House
State Capitol Building
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Vote Explanation on HB 4157

Dear Chief Clerk Sekerak,

Thank you for accepting my vote explanation for [HB 4157](#). While I appreciate the intent to mitigate the very real and harmful impacts of human trafficking, I cannot support this bill. As seen in [public testimony](#), this bill was developed without meaningful consultation with sex worker-led organizations and carries significant risks for consensual sex workers.

As a State Representative I believe deeply in the concept of “nothing about us without us.” That is to say that when developing complex policy it is of utmost importance to include impacted community members from the beginning. When laws directly impact people’s lives and safety, it is essential that their voices are at the table. After speaking with consensual sex workers and other impacted community members, I have learned that opposition to the bill stems from potential unintended consequences such as:

- The expansion of prosecutorial discretion lacking necessary guardrails in a system that already applies discretion inequitably.
- The inclusion of "Promoting Prostitution" which is particularly problematic. This charge criminalizes anyone who assists in prostitution—including drivers, safe contacts, family members, or other sex workers. Unlike compelling prostitution, promoting prostitution doesn't require force, fraud, or coercion. Including it in this hearsay exception will further isolate sex workers and increase their risk by criminalizing their support networks.
- The lack of meaningful engagement with BIPOC sex worker led organizations before advancing legislation affecting these communities.

FARRAH CHAICHI
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 35



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I am in favor of policies that protect victims and potential victims from the real dangers and harms of human trafficking, as I believe was the intent of [HB 4157](#). However, we cannot overlook that consensual sex workers are often at the forefront of fighting against and supporting victims of human trafficking while being vulnerable to prosecution, discrimination, violence, and physical harm themselves.

For these reasons, I will be a “no” vote on [HB 4157](#) today. I hope that my colleagues will continue to work alongside impacted communities in the future to bring forward legislation that protects communities from commercial sexual exploitation, holds traffickers and those who exploit others accountable, and mitigates unintended harm and consequences for all.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Farrah Chaichi". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Representative Farrah Chaichi, House District 35